

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: **Jim Freid et al.**

Serial No: **10/735,976**

Filed: **December 15, 2003**

For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR STABILIZING  
THE HUMAN SPINE WITH A BONE PLATE**

Examiner: **PHILOGENE, Pedro**

Group Art Unit: **3733**

Attorney Docket No.: **5259-03700USC2**

Confirmation Number: **4258**

Certificate of Electronic Deposit:

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being electronically filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office:

Date of Deposit: 9/9/ 2008

Stacy Sutton Kerby  
Signature

STACY SUTTON KERBY  
Printed Name

Mail Stop: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir,

Applicant respectfully requests, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, that the information listed on the attached SB08A/B form(s) be considered and cited in the examination of the above-identified application. A copy of U.S. Patent(s) and U.S. Patent Application Publication(s) listed on the attached SB08A form is not being submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. A copy of foreign patent documents as well as the information listed on the attached SB08B form is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d).

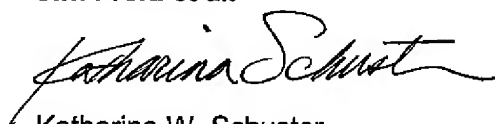
☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application;

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits; or

☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114.

Furthermore, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(g) and (h), no representation is made that a search has been made or that this information is material to patentability of the present application. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of Applicant's above-referenced patent application are patentably distinguishable from the listed information.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Jim Freid et al.**



Katharina W. Schuster  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 50,000

**SPRINKLE IP LAW GROUP**  
1301 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 408  
Austin, Texas 78705  
Tel. (512) 637-9220  
Fax. (512) 317-9088

Please forward all Correspondence to:

**ABBOTT LABORATORIES**  
Dept. 377/AP6A-1  
100 Abbott Park Road  
Abbot Park, IL 60064-6008  
Telephone: (847) 937-6364  
Fax No.: (847) 938-2623  
Customer No. 23492